



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Rd, Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92120

PROJECT TITLE: Wetland Delineation for Accessibility Trail Improvements Project (ER-11757)

LOCATION: Palomar Mountain State Park

COUNTY: San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

As part of a project involving accessibility improvements to the existing Doane Pond & Thunder Springs Trails at Palomar Mountain State Park (Project No. ER-11591), a wetland delineation is proposed to determine if jurisdictional wetlands, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), are present within the project footprint. A State Parks Environmental Scientist will determine if wetland indicators are present within the footprint, and whether the area supports a single wetland or multiple wetlands. This will require visually looking for hydrological indicators and hydrophytic vegetation as well as digging to determine whether hydric soils are present.

Sample sites are proposed to occur within 20 feet of the outer edge of the trail footprint on both sides of the project related trails, one in an upland location (i.e. outside of the suspected wetland) and one in the wetland(s). The holes to be dug at the sample sites will be 1-2 feet in diameter and 14-21 inches deep. Impacts will be minimized by filling in the holes following data collection, having an archaeologist onsite to monitor for potential cultural impacts, having the Environmental Scientist conducting the wetland delineation be aware of rare species in the area, their identification, and their recorded locations. If wetlands are determined to be present in the project area, design should be adjusted to avoid entering identified wetlands.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Southern Service Center

EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ Categorical Exemption
Class: 6 Section(s): 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.5. If the project is implemented as indicated within the project description including comments provided by CDPR specialists, then it is exempt under CEQA §15306 – Information Collection. The action falls under the Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as:

- "Resource studies, inventories" (Class 6, Section 15306)

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Barry Matsuda
Director, Southern Service Center



Date